Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

COUNTRY Hungary

25X1

SUBJECT

Town of Kecskemet: Origins/Characteristics/ Principal Installations

DATE DISTRIBUTED

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

RESPONSIVE TO

25X1

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

Background and Physical Description

1. Kecskemet, now the capital of Bacs-Kiskun county, can be considered a typical town for the area of Hungary east of the Danube River. Most of these eastern towns, including Kecskemet, have their origins with the Turkish occupation of southern Hungary. All of these towns gradually developed into the famous "Hungarian farmers' towns". Their layout is completely different, not only from rural settlements in western Hungary but also from agricultural villages all over Central Europe. The reason for this difference is the purpose for which these towns were created. During the Turkish occupation, Hungarian farmers, mostly herdsmen dispersed over a vast area, became afraid of staying alone and thus started to build up communities. First their buildings were more of the shanty type; later they took the form of proper farmhouses. The main purpose in creating these towns was simply collective security. Unlike villages in the western part of Hungary, the eastern towns were not built around a castle or a church, but rather around the source of water. Since the entire area between the rivers Tisza and Danube is very poorly supplied with water, possibilities to find a good source of water were rather limited. Communities set up around wells were normally built on a geometrical pattern, generally either a square or a circle. This characteristic feature can still be observed in farmers' towns of eastern Hungary. Another characteristic feature is the presence of large squares which provide places to hold cattle markets which use up much space. The streets are very wide, here again, the large number of cattle was the decisive factor. Another factor influenced the construction of broad streets. The towns were built on sandy soil and the houses, for the greater part, did not have foundations (basements); they were one-floored structures. Even today few buildings are a little higher, but even these are no more than two stories. Streets are oriented in the direction of the prevailing winds which in most parts of eastern Hungary blow all year long from southwest to northeast. With such a layout, the sand carried by the winds can less easily penetrate the buildings of the towns. The majority of the farmsteads have stables and big yards as is customary in Hungary. The large number of such farmsteads within the town boundaries resulted in the area of the town being disproportionally large compared to the number of the population.

Economic Importance

2. Kecskemet which evolved as a typical eastern farmers' town, possesses all of

Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

25X1

25X1

[redacted]

10. The [redacted] security system office is on Ho Tay, Bucharest's main square. The prison for political prisoners is in the same building.

Water Supply

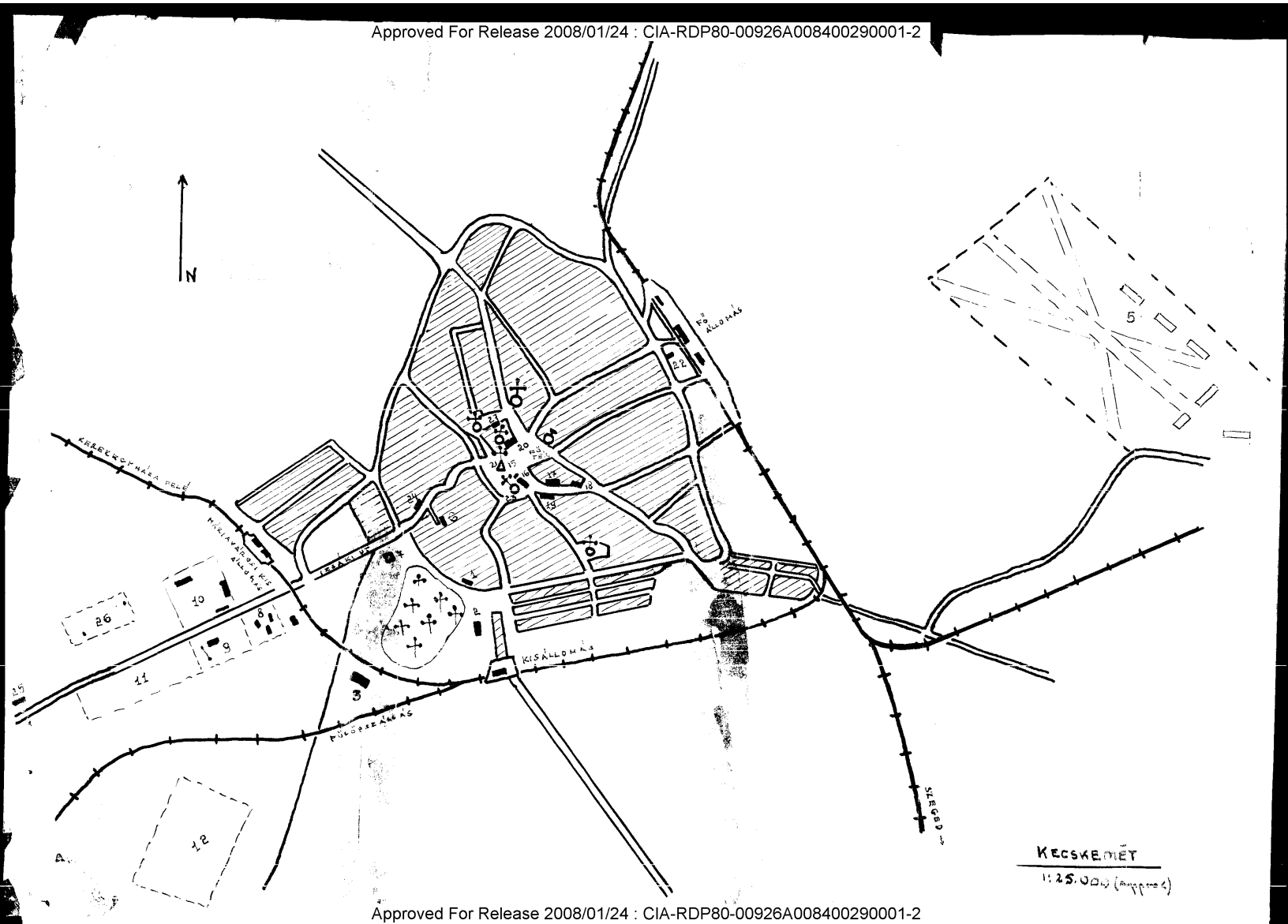
11. The draining system and the system for supplying water from the reservoirs is still unfinished in Bucharest. Though the work was started in 1929, it was discontinued during World War II and was started again in 1952. For the most part, the town is supplied with water from artesian wells.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

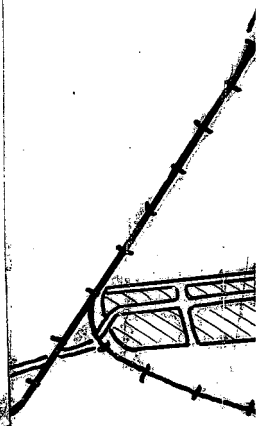


Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2

LEGEND

1. match factory
2. iron foundry
3. vegetable and fruit canning plant
4. [not listed]
5. airfield
6. military barracks
7. military barracks
8. military barracks
9. military building
10. military barracks
11. military barracks
12. military barracks compound
13. [not listed]
14. [not listed]
15. AVH security system office
16. Town Hall
17. Main Post Office
18. Theater
19. Agriculture Academy
20. Town branch of National Bank
21. Szentmaria Church
22. Town Museum
23. Main Protestant Church
24. Vocational agricultural school
25. Main town hospital
26. Water station
27. Municipal dispensary.



25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2008/01/24 : CIA-RDP80-00926A008400290001-2